

ARLINGTON HALL STATION, BUILDING 550
4000 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington
Arlington County
Virginia

HABS NO. VA-1270-AM

HABS
VA
7-APL
12AM-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mid-Atlantic Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HABS
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12AM-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

ARLINGTON HALL STATION, BUILDING 550

HABS No. VA-1270-AM

- Location: Located on the east side of Third Street at the intersection of Third and Fourth Streets. Arlington Hall Station is located at 4000 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia.
- Significance: Constructed in 1944 as a Mess Hall Building 550 is associated with the nationally significant development of Arlington Hall Station as the headquarters of United States Army intelligence activities during World War II. (For overview of Arlington Hall Station, see HABS No. VA-1270).
- Description: Building 550 is a single-story gable-roofed concrete block building that is partially stuccoed. The building measures approximately 40 feet by 190 feet. A later addition on the front, west, facade extends to the east, connecting with the first of two 12-foot by 25-foot extensions on the north facade. Aluminum exterior double-hung storm windows and eight-over-eight double-hung windows with concrete sills occur throughout. Doorways consist of aluminum and glass replacement units. The west entry has a wood trellis. A screened concrete loading dock located at the east end of the building is covered with a flat roof. The interior is open plan with a ceramic tile kitchen located near the east end of the building. Wood paneled columns run longitudinally down the center of the building.
- History: Building 550 was constructed in 1944 as part of an expansion of personnel at Arlington Hall Station. The design of the building conforms to standardized United States Army plans for mobilization-type buildings. These plans called for wood frame, rather than concrete block, construction. It appears that in 1944 the Army determined to develop a more permanent presence at Arlington Hall Station, and chose to erect standardized buildings of concrete block. The building has undergone minor repairs and alterations over the years to upgrade the facility. It was most recently used as a mess hall and is presently vacant.
- Sources: Annual Reports, Arlington Hall Station. On file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
- History Office, ODCSOPS. *Arlington Hall Station and Military Intelligence*. Arlington, VA: n.d. On file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

History Office, ODCSOPS. *INSCOM and Its Heritage: An Organizational History of the Command and Its Units*. Special Historical Series. Arlington, VA: n.d. On file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

History of the Signal Security Agency. Part of a classified 10 volume series. Declassified portions of the series on file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Original drawings on file at Facility Engineer's Office, Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia.

Historian:

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